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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Judicial Council Releases 2007 Annual Report**

### ***Three Branches of Government Work Together to Increase Access to Justice***

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California today released its *2007 Annual Report*, a summary of the judicial branch's significant progress and challenges in improving court administration and equal access for all Californians. The report is available online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/2007ar.pdf>.

The report highlights the branch's efforts, in cooperation with the legislative and executive branches of state government, to improve service to the public and describes key trends in court caseloads and workloads.

The online version of the annual report links readers to other resources on the California Courts Web site, including reports, studies, fact sheets, and additional online resources that provide detailed information on court topics.

The annual report emphasizes the steps taken toward improving service to members of the public who look increasingly to the courts for ways to solve their problems. Among those steps are updating the strategic goals for the judicial branch for the next six years, focusing on challenges to the impartiality of the judiciary, and increasing the number of judgeships to ease the workload of overburdened trial courts.

The report also highlights the Probate Conservatorship Task Force, created to make recommendations for improving the management of such cases; and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, created to develop recommendations for improving safety, permanence, well-being, and fairness outcomes for children and their families.

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A companion volume, the *Court Statistics Report*, which provides detailed statistical caseload and workload trend data statewide and for each of the 58 counties, was released in July 2007.

For more information or copies of this report, call the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980.

*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*

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